



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
LSA ANACONDA, BALAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09391

21 April 2007

To the Soldiers and Families of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

The recent Secretary of the Army announcement extending deployments to up to 15 months is hard news for the Soldiers and families of 13th SC (E) active duty units. The full impact of the decision is not known at this time and many deployment and redeployment issues must be resolved before the full impact is known. Currently, we do not know if the 13th SC (E) or our active duty units will be extended.

The policy to extend tours from 12 to 15 months for active duty units was not easy but necessary. The Secretary of the Army had to choose whether to extend units or redeploy units before they had 12 months at home. As difficult as this decision is for those of us currently deployed, it was the right thing to do for the Soldiers and families of units that would have deployed early. This news is tough. But so are our Soldiers and families. I request your patience as we work to determine the exact impact on each of our units. I am humbled daily by your dedication and sacrifice—and ever so grateful for the support we receive from our families, friends and neighbors at home. Your courage and steadfast determination are phenomenal. I am honored to serve with each of you in such a noble cause.

Our organization is incredibly complex. Perhaps in no other formation is the credo, “one team, one fight” more apparent than in our own. Active duty, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units fight side by side in our formation—in some cases as part of the same unit. Army National Guard and Army Reserve unit tour lengths are projected to be 12 months. We have not received confirmation yet of any extensions, but I encourage you to consider the impact this will have on your families. I assure you, we will pass on information as soon as it becomes available and we are committed to taking care of each and every Soldier and family member affected by this policy.

Today’s Soldier demonstrates incredible courage and tenacity, along with, incredible discipline and restraint. Our Army asks as much of our Soldiers and families as it has at any time in our history—and you are answering every challenge. I know you will answer this challenge as well. Thanks to our Soldiers for their outstanding service and to our families for their continued understanding, support, and sacrifices.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Terry
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding